

Public Hearings

What You Should Know

Required by the law

The law requires the DEQ to allow the public to comment on some actions (permits, enforcement, etc.). More information about these actions can be found at a public hearing or on the DEQ website at: www.michigan.gov/deqcalendar.

The hearing is not a dialogue

The hearing itself does not allow for discussion – however, before the start of the formal hearing time, DEQ staff will normally host an informational session. You are encouraged to ask questions during the informational session.

Public comments are a very important part of making sure the action that will be taken has been thoroughly reviewed. Based on comments received during the public comment period and the comments received at this hearing, the DEQ may:

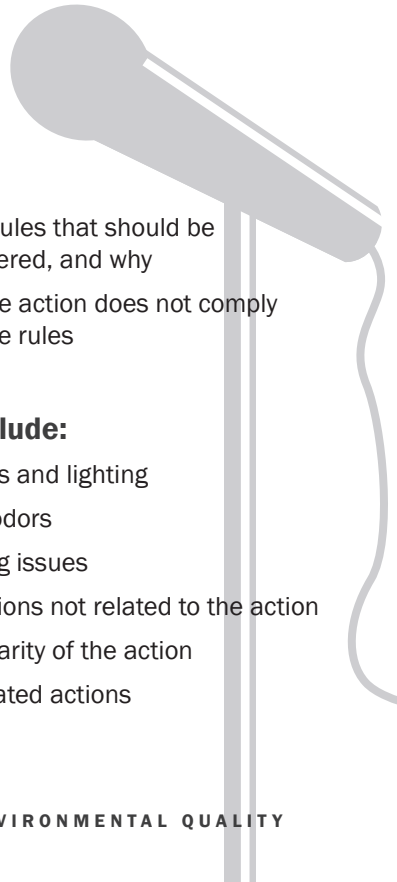
- complete the action as proposed;
- deny the action; or
- revise the action.

Comments the DEQ can consider include:

- Technical mistakes
- Grammar and spelling mistakes
- Other items the action should include, and why
- Other rules that should be considered, and why
- Why the action does not comply with the rules

Some issues the DEQ cannot consider include:

- Emission sources that are not part of the action
- Land uses not related to the action
- Water uses not related to the action
- Indoor air pollution
- Traffic
- Hours the company operates
- Noises and lighting
- Mild odors
- Zoning issues
- Violations not related to the action
- Popularity of the action
- Unrelated actions



How does a public hearing work?

DEQ staff will give you background information about the purpose of the hearing and how comments will be used. Comments are important, so most of the time during the hearing will be spent listening to them. DEQ staff will take notes during the time you are making your comment. During the hearing, DEQ staff will not be responding to your comment.

After the hearing, DEQ staff will review all of the comments and respond to them in a written report. The report will be available on the Department's website or by contacting the DEQ directly at 800-662-9278.

How can I be heard?

Public hearings are recorded and all comments become a part of the information that the DEQ will review when making its decision on the proposed action. All comments will be reviewed before the DEQ makes its decision.

1. Fill out an attendance card and indicate if you wish to make a comment by checking the box. These cards show people interested in the proposed action and who want to make a comment today.
2. The names of the people wishing to provide a comment will be called. When your name is called, please come up to the microphone.
3. If you have written comments or items that you would like to present, please hand them to staff as you approach the microphone.
4. State your name and any group or association you may represent.
5. Begin your comments. You will be given a specific amount of time for your comments.
6. Once your comments are complete, take your seat so the next person may be called. When all names have been called, we will ask if anyone else would like to make a comment.

What if I have more questions?

If you have questions, DEQ staff are normally available in or outside of the hearing room for one-on-one assistance.

Thank you for your comments and cooperation. We appreciate that you have shown an interest in this proposed action by taking the time to be here today.

Thank you for being courteous and respectful!

800-662-9278 | www.michigan.gov/deq

Michigan's Environmental Justice Policy promotes the fair, non-discriminatory treatment and meaningful involvement of Michigan's residents regarding the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies by this state. Fair, non-discriminatory treatment intends that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or low-income populations, will bear a disproportionately greater burden resulting from environmental laws, regulations, policies, and decision-making. Meaningful involvement of residents ensures an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health.